

Patent Claims**We claim:**

1. A metal gasket, in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, consisting of at least one functional layer (4) showing at least one through-opening (2), as well as at least one leveling layer (5) and/ or cover layer (8) that covers the functional layer (4) at least partially; where the functional layer (4), in the pre-assembled state of the gasket (1), is formed as a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the opening (2), at least one profiled body (7, 9, 12) through which in the assembled state of the gasket (1) through a deformation of the functional layer (4) at least one sealing area (15) with elastic effect can be created; wherein the profiled body (7) is formed by a stopper element and wherein the leveling layer (5) is placed in the area of the surface (4') of the functional layer (4) that is facing away from the stopper element (7).
2. A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body (7, 9, 12) consists of incompressible material.
3. A gasket, according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the profiled body (7, 9, 12) consists of metal.
4. A gasket, according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the profiled body (7, 9, 12) consists of plastic.
5. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 4 wherein the stopper element (7) is formed by a separate ring element (6).
6. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 5, wherein the stopper element (7) is created through the flanging of a ring element (6).

7. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 6 wherein the stopper element (7) is placed between two functional layers (4) where at least one leveling layer (5) is placed on the surface (4') of the functional layer (4) facing away from the stopper element (7).
8. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 7 wherein the profile (9, 12) is located in at least one leveling layer (5) and/ or cover layer (8) on the side of the functional layer where, in the assembled state of the gasket (1), a corresponding elastic sealing area (15) can be created in the functional layer (4) through the deformation of the functional layer (4).
9. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 8 wherein the profile (9, 12) shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer (4) at least one half bead-like area can be created.
10. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 through 9 wherein the profile (9, 12) shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer (4) at least one full bead-like area.
11. A metal gasket, in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, consisting of at least one functional layer (4) showing at least one through-opening (2), as well as at least one leveling layer (5) and/ or cover layer (8) that covers the functional layer (4) at least partially; where the functional layer (4), in the pre-assembled state of the gasket (1), is formed as a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the opening (2), at least one profiled body (7, 9, 12) through which in the assembled state of the gasket (1) a deformation of the functional layer (4) at least one sealing area (15) with elastic effect can be created where at least one elevation forming a profile (9, 12) and at least one cutout (10, 11) associated with the elevation are provided in the leveling layers (5) and/ or cover layers (8), located opposite each other; where the functional layer (4) that is placed in between, and that is initially flat, and that in the assembled state is, at least in this area, deformable while building an elastic sealing area (15) wherein the respective functional layer (4) and the plane of the stopper element (7) shows at least one leveling layer (5).

12. A gasket, according to one of the claims 1 to 11 wherein the functional layer (4) consists of spring steel.